



# KEY NOTE



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via CompuServe or CompuServe HamNet

## SUBS

Cheques etc. to FISTS C.W. CLUB.

N. America to WZ8C, others to HQ.

UK: £5, EEC: £6, Europe: £7

N. America: \$15.00, others: £10.

## SUPPLY MANAGER

WO8E Irene

25206 Hayes

Rsvl MI 48066

Stickers \$5/200

Pins \$3.50

Book \$10.00/pp

## NETS

Sunday :0930 & 1430 on 7029. G0IHK

Sunday :US 2000Z on 14058. KC4UUG

Tues/Thurs 0200 Traffic Net 3.682 K80UA

Saturday: US 2000 EST on 14.058 NP2GP

DX 7/14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins

Pse keep watch all Novice allocations

UK Net Controls use GX0IPXP

## SUBS

Your renewal date is printed on your mailing label.

## GREETINGS

Well, here we are again folks and this time I resisted the temptation to offer a complete update of the US members. I was so far behind that there was near a whole page full of 'em. They are included in the listings of course so, drop me a stamp or two or a floppy for the software version.

Summer I am told was fantastic. Unfortunately I missed it since I was shaving when it happened but as I am writing this, I look out on a heavily overcast sky and note that the mercury has dropped to 14c or less during the day. I'm not saying it's cold but this is the first time I have seen the birds wearing thermal underwear.

Happily, 40m opened inter-G during the day and I was able to spend a few hours chatting with many of our new members for a first-time QSO. There was some pretty nice code coming from all of them and, in a couple of cases, exaggerated spacing showed that they were conscious of the results when this was inadequate.

Mary, G0BQV found me on air and tells me that she is off to Cyprus with the same gang that activated the Gambia last year. Hope she remembers to spend a little time on .058 for us less fortunate mortals. We have a couple of members serving with the British forces out there so if you get the chance petal !!!

A recent reference to noise by a local station jogged my memory back several years. I visited a local ham who lived on the same road as myself during which he paid a rare visit to his cellar to get me a beer. For several days after he complained bitterly of heavy noise and was on the point of going on a cleansing operation. He finally took an el-cheapo transistor radio, tuned off station and found the noise to be present on the Medium Wave band. Carrying the tranny he headed first up the hill whence the noise diminished. Reversing his steps, he passed his house in a downhill direction and again the noise diminished. The awful truth struck him immediately and he returned indoors to switch off the fluorescent light in his cellar! I don't have any of these new fangled electric lamps but can anyone tell me if they produce the same racket as the old fashioned fluorescent arrays did??

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## BALUNS

Some local hams have been bending the ear of Stuart (G3PPD) exhibiting his Insect Filter at various rallies. The chief cry was aimed at the commercial baluns which ranged from £28.00 upwards and Stuart, involved already in ferrite materials with which he wound his transformers etc., turned his attention to the problem. The result is a range of baluns in sealable black plastic boxes complete with terminals and SO239 which range in cost from £8.00 to £12.00 (in this day and age that can't be bad) detailed thus:

### BLACK TERMINALS

Ratio 1:1 Broadband, bifilar wound on ferrite ring

Ferrite ring 2in diam o/s 1cm x 1cm sq cross section

Magnetic factor (AL=115)

Wire = 1mm. Res=0.2Ω. Q=1.5. L=22μH

Price £8.00

### YELLOW TERMINALS

Ratio 1:4 bifilar wound on "U" section ferrite

Magnetic factor (AL=170)

Wire = 1mm. Res=.1Ω. Q=0.3. L=6μH

Price £10.00

### BLUE TERMINALS

Ratio 1:1 trifilar wound on "U" section ferrite

As above but with three windings

Price £12.00

All prices include postage and packing. They have been very popular and after the buyer has taken the inevitable shufti, the lid has been permanently sealed.

## DIGITIZED REFLEXNS

G3TUX stands back and takes a wide view of the digital revolution. At the Bury Rally, he bought a Ten-Tec C22 fitted with an on board keyer which had no dash/dot memory. Using this was a salutary illustration of how he had become seduced into slovenly keying by the forgiving characteristics of modern iambic keyers. I am quite prepared to believe the Audio Buffs who claim to be able to differentiate between analogue recordings on vinyl and digital ones on CD.

"As workaday life is full of competitive pressures, most of my operating is entirely for pleasure and relaxation rather than chasing DX through the pileups. Thus it is relatively more important to me to have 'nice copy' than to be able to winkle out the weakest signals through the heaviest QRM. Similarly, the ergonomics

of a rig's front panel weigh more heavily than its ultimate signal handling performance (I like to kid myself that with 30+ years of experience, in combination with the processing power of my grey matter, I can drive most receivers to good effect)"

"I do not consider that I am Luddite - I usually have a go at all new technologies as they appear, assessing them firstly in terms of their absolute merit and then their relevance to my needs. I have to concede that, in absolute terms, most digital devices do offer performance enhancements to equipment. For example, the memory and scanning functions of digitally synthesised VFOs are a boon to many operators".

"The other aspect of things digital, again illustrated by my experience with the keyer and DSP, is their ability to reduce the level of operator expertise required to achieve a given result. Is this good or bad? This is a similar question to phone vs CW, manual vs automatic gear boxes etc. I have to say that I feel a lot better about being self sufficient in terms of processing power and that I get a much greater 'buzz' making QSOs with simple home brew QRP gear than owning the latest and bestest black box".

I agree with much of Chris's observations but personally, as far as the DSP is concerned, I use it IF IT IS NEEDED. It is more satisfying to be able to continue a QSO with a rapidly fading QRPer via the DSP than to abandon it. in mid-stream. Hi.

### YOUR OBS PLEASE

**GOHGA.** Angie continues to have problems from some stations. She tells me that regular friends have refused to respond when called. I know this begs the question "did they hear in the first place"? which of course is impossible to prove. If you are in any doubt as to the authenticity, Angie has asked me to release her ex-D number to the members. You are invited to give her a call if you are in doubt. All this stems from the practice of one (possibly two or more) individuals using her call and laying poison. Your help thus would be appreciated. Her phone number is [01438] 362040

### INTERNET AND COMPUSEVE

Many of our members already make use of these facilities. All normal comms with Nancy for instance and occasional messages from members on the system arrive directly into my computer via CompuServe.

If you have a PC with a modem, you can access Internet via one of the dedicated servers. Alternatively, you can take out a registration with CompuServe. E-mail may be exchanged freely between the two systems assuming that such traffic is correctly addressed. For CompuServe, my address is:

100101,620

for Internet users, this transcribes to:

100101.620@compuserve.com

Please note the substitution of full point for comma in the Internet address. This is important.

Members using CompuServe may address e-mail to Internet users by prefixing the address with internet:(Internet address)

Whereas I am permitted to send binary files to CompuServe users, traffic to Internet addresses is restricted to pure Text or ASCII files with a maximum of 2Mbytes.

I find the system most useful since I can send articles for instance direct to Rob Mannion of Practical Wireless and this scope will be extended in the near future as more and more companies, magazines and even dealers make use of this communications explosion.

### FROM ACROSS THE POND

Being adrift with the news letter sometimes pays dividends. In this case, it was the arrival of two letters from Nancy - one with her NA Memo and the t'other with two app. forms and some green stamps from a US member in support of a couple of EU members.

N2PLE goes to some lengths to dispel the fears of the less experienced. QRS does not mean that you are a poor quality operator. It means (especially with-in FISTS) I am not quite ready for your speed but am willing to participate. He urges such members to respond to CQs with a /QRS (N2PLE DE WZ8C/QRS).

K8OUA (Ohio's ugliest Amateur) reports on the results of the first Spring Sprint which took place on 13 May. From the very beginning of the contest, it was clear that some of the long-time members would play a big role in the final results. It was also clear that condx were going to be less than ideal with 20 and 40m being the most active bands. It was perhaps not too surprising that Maggie, NP2GP was heading for the top of the table with 119 QSOs followed closely by KC4UUG. Both these stations are heavily involved in the QSO parties but further down the list I found Irene WO8E which I confess surprised me. I know it was a few years ago but during my stay with Irene and Ken, I found her struggling somewhat so she has made some very serious improvement. Congrats to all who took part.

Mike N3HLM uses his FISTS coffee mug at work & is often asked what FISTS and CW mean. He explains initially that it is a martial arts order and that CW stands for Chung Woo but relents later and tells 'em the truth. He reports however that they seem to like the Bruce Lee FISTS of Fury explanation better. Hi.

I know that the US encompasses a marginally larger area than the UK but Nancy finds so many QRS and other nets / parties to report that she proposes to lump them all into one larger list for future Memos. Be nice if we could have such enthusiasm within Europe but as long as the gang gets on air when possible I guess I should not be grouching. Hi.

Pete, K8OUA finds that many FISTS try to call into his QRS net but are defeated by condx. Main activity is from East of QTH and he urges a similar net West of the Mississippi.

KB8HB upgraded and becomes AA8TU (congrats Randy) and N8IAG (Brian whom Nancy dubs Irritable and Grumpy) succeeded in undoing nature's great work and breaking a rib whilst working on his car - You're supposed to jack the damned thing up Brian.

## NEW MEMBERS

I am happy to welcome the following who have signed up since your last update:

GSWL2John G0UQEBert F5NQL Maurice  
G0LGF Terry GSWL4Jack G3GURJohn  
DL3GXLLeila G4KZZ Nigel OZ1GHNJan  
G0IRO Brian G0VJJ Stan ON5UE Danny  
ON6MNMartin EL2NC DicksonUA4LFR Alex  
They are numbered (L/R) from 1814

## ODDS ' N ENDS

Russ W1CFZ has bought 4 acres of land out in Maine near Bear Mountain and will be doing a permanent QSY when Donna retires in 66. Now what couldnt I do with 4 acres and a few miles of wire?

Both G0HGA and GM0KMG are mourning the death of their mothers. Angie incidentally has resurrected her old "B" ticket and is activating her old call G1XEO on 2m in the hope of attracting a few "B" ops whom she suspects may be shy of calling in to a full class ticket. Elmer awards (13 and 14) to G0ORS and G0SZE together with Century Awards to LY3BY and G4OOS. Condx were normal for 20m the t'other day - the pits - so I was very surprised to find a BV4 return to my CQ from Taiwan.

## PACKET ADDRESSES

David, G0TVN, has kindly agreed to take a little weight off my shoulders and is prepared to distribute lists of members with packet, Compuserve and Internet addresses via Packet. He can be contacted as G0TVN @ GB7BEN. I must also draw the attention of members to the fact that my BBS has changed. GB7PWY found the going rough due to working commitments and has handed the reigns over to GB7HVU. Please note this address and any queries, requests or offers of free pints would be welcome via this mode.

## PICCIES

Many of you like to send in piccies for reproduction in the newsletter. Unfortunately, I have to doctor most of them because although they may look great to you on the print, they have to be converted to 256 grey scales and printed in a medium which bears no resemblance to the high definition, multi-colour environment that you are looking at with your prints. Although black and white is the preferred medium, it seems to have gone out of fashion these days and it is rare indeed to find a spool of B/W film so I have to bite the bullet and concede that virtually 100% of the images I get will be in colour. Scanning them is not much of a problem. The scanner converts the image and varying hues into a map of pixels for display on the monitor and ultimately the printer. The real problem is poor resolution on the original image. I can take part of the picture (the head/shoulders perhaps) and scale it up so that it occupies a predefined area (say 2 x 2 inches) but I then scale up all the faults of the original. The smaller the image, the more the more upward scaling is demanded and the more emphasis is placed on irregularities. In a colour print,

you can differentiate between the hair of a subject and the shadow cast by the flash on a background. Convert these tones to grey scales and you have difficulty in discerning where one begins and the 't'other ends. This is when I have to go to work with the software and try to remove these shadows. Before you take a photograph of your next subject, think ahead a little. Get close up. That dress with a confusing shadows near the hem contributes nothing. Try and fill the frame with head and shoulders and more importantly, put some distance between the subject and background surfaces and focus as sharply as possible. Ideally, there should be back lighting but this is not always possible hence my suggestion that there should be lots of nothingfulness between subject and background. It really helps. Ta ever so.

## STRAIGHT KEY WEEK

Yup. It has come round again and I have not yet sorted out the few entries we had for the last one. Fear not they have not been completely forgotten but just a reminder that it starts 0000z on the first Sunday in the month to 2359 the following Saturday. Same condx as previously. Logs welcome but even more so is your participation and nomination for FIST of the year.

## SPONSORSHIP

It is timely to remind you and to advise newer members that sponsoring EU stations is a serious commitment and it may well be many years before they are able to support themselves financially. This is not their fault of course but that of the international money market which makes the cost of membership (usually £7.00) more like £50.00 when trying to obtain negotiable currency. The club does it's best and we already support many such members but if you are in regular contact with friends in Eastern Europe and wish to support them with membership please remember the situation noted above. Once again, donations etc are welcome but please do not ask me to play God and pick an E. EU station - work 'em on the bands and if you are happy then nominate them.

## THINGS THEY ARE A CHANGING

Aint it amazing the way certain commodities come into fashion and shove their traditional counterparts out of the bed. I know this happens in our hobby - try and get hold of that obscure bottle for your ancient TX - but I was driven to the point of frustration when trying to get hold of a simple and (so I thought) common item as brown gummed kraft tape. Every where I tried it was this plastic stuff which has distinct disadvantages. It is either on or off; there is no chance of repositioning, it is difficult to undo without it exploding into a sticky cloud which envelopes the dog and, more importantly, postage stamps will not stick to it. I use tape for sending out batches of QSL cards and was rapidly running out but was saved by the small supplier who takes care of my printing plates and chemicals. How long will it be I wonder before the keyer is replaced by a black box that converts the spoken word into code?

## BEGINNERS KORNER

As we listen/operate around the bands, there are a multitude of glaring cockups being committed which with a little thought could be easily avoided. To a large degree, it is due to insufficient attention being paid to accepted operating practices and although, as a group, we are more forgiving than many, it does wrangle a few of our members. The age old moan about multi-CQs remains but aside from this, you often find yourself dissecting a call to find out just what it is. Tuning, you may hear "T1XXCT1XXCT1XXARPSEK" which is not at all uncommon and you need to spend some time to sort out CT1XX + K. This is just plain sloppy sending and I hope it cannot be directed towards any FISTS members. QRL? on a seemingly unoccupied frequency is a courtesy that should be respected. YES TNKS. It does however give you cause to wonder if it is worth bothering when the response is QRL QSY QSY QSY LID. Most stations faced with this response would be tempted to sit on the frequency and voice their opinions of such bad manners. You will still get the Wally who sends QRL? and without pausing goes on to issue a string of CQs etc. I am convinced that this is due to misinterpretation. He thinks QRL? means "I am about to occupy this frequency so if there is anyone there - shove off" Unless you know that the station concerned is unable to send fast but is capable of copying QRQ, a burst of 25wpm in response to 12 wpm is not only futile, it is bad manners. This hardly ever happens with FISTS members but there are still those out there who take the view that "if you can't stand the heat then stay out of the kitchen". Ultimately, they narrow their own sphere of contacts so just QSY and forget 'em. The keyer here is set for 18 and 22 wpm. On the pump I run at around 16 wpm depending on the contact. If you hear me calling CQ at 40 wpm then send me a rocket. I will have earned it. Hi.

## EUROPE FOR QRP WEEKEND

Time to remind you folks that the above event takes place following our own Straight Key week. From 1600z 29 Sept to 2359z 1 Oct 3.560, 7.030, 14.060, 21.060, 28.060 all +/- 10KHz Not to exceed 5W RF output. Stations unable to measure their output take half DC input power to the PA Call CQ EU QRP Exchange RST, power output and name of op. Only QRP/QRP QSOs count. Contacts with own country do not count. EU stations score 1 point for each EU QSO and 3 points for each QSO out of EU Stations outside EU score 5 points for each QSO with EU. Final score is sum of points obtained for each band. Separate log sheets for each band showing for each QSO date, time, call, exchange sent/received before 12 Nov 1995 to: P. Doudera OK1CZ. U 1 Balerie 1 16200 Praha 6 Czech Republic

## LEICESTER RALLY

Received a packet msg from G4OOS concerning this event. The Leicester radio club will be putting on a special event stn for VJ day on 12 to 13 of AUGUST probably on 80 & 40 mtrs. Call in use will be GB5VJ. Lucky

to get that call and think that there will be at least two fists members on the stn. when it is cw of course.

## IT AINT ARF ' OT MUM

Whew! Up here in the hills of West Lancashire we can normally count on an overcoat in difference to the South coast. This year things have been turned on their head for a few days in early July yours truly almost seized a piston with temperatures of 35c being recorded. It has however done no good whatever to band conditions. I managed to work a few weak & watery US stations, a VK6 came in quite suddenly at 589 and before we had time to exchange names etc he fell to 329 and dropped into a bottomless pit. Evenings on 80 have been more productive though and many members were worked on my spasmodic appearance. Trawling 3.570+ for the 2E0 guys I worked a number of members but none of the target calls. However, this does show that members are sufficiently concerned about encouraging the novice to check around their spot. Please remember that the frequency 3.580 and down is where other members will expect to find you. I hear some of you as low as 3.535 having skipped from QRM to QRM to find a clear frequency and this is how it should be. On 40m, again we leave about 2KHz clear of the QRP segment and tune 7.028 down. I am sure you will understand now why .058 from the bottom end of the HF bands was chosen. It is far enough removed from the QRP frequency to cause no interference and leaves us with quite a fair degree of space in which to trawl LF. 14.052, 21.052 and 28.052 is where the RNARS gang hang out so if you come this far down then please skip below this frequency. The violent thunderstorms which occurred around 12 July spurred me into disconnecting my antenna feeders. The only thing is that I neglected to unplug the PSUs which feed the FT290, keyer and DSP filter. I was fortunate and no damage was done but I'll sure remember next time. Hi. Getting quite a lot of feedback on Packet these days. Ex members are asking to be reinstated and at least one US station is using the medium for passing intelligence. The BBS is used purely as a convenient post box. I do not scan it for spurious bulletins though the sysops seem happy to distribute rubbish about abolishing the cw test, political comment, grouches about football, the England cricket team and other such topics most of which are completely divorced from Amateur Radio. Occasional e-mail messages also surface via Compuserve (some redirected from the internet) and of course, all are welcome.

## WANT TO HELP?

Things are getting even more hectic at this end with an increasing membership. Bob (G0FRL) gives of his time to act as QSL manager and unpaid postman as well as dealing with the documentation for new members. When called upon, Jack, G3LRB drives over and picks up 500 or so envelopes and newsletters but apart from that, extended FISTS activity would present an additional burden which may well break the cam-

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els' back. As noted, the US Spring Sprint was well supported and it would be nice if a group of you who live within proximity of each other could organise the odd contest and SK week. I can handle the results of these from here but checking claims etc is gonna tax me too far I fear. Please have a word with local FISTS in your area and see if you can come up with an activity committee for me.

### THE KCJA AWARD

Rod, G3TVI pounces on my inadequate description. There are only 47 JA prefectures so my interpretation of Ralphs note was faulty. Coincidentally though Ralph sends another letter (must cost the lad a bomb in postage) together with a couple of legal size sheets for application. This cites an example application where 10 prefectures were worked on 80m, 35 on 40, 40 on 20 and 15 on 15mtrs giving 100 prefectures in total. Now I see what they are up to but it could have been simplified. The application form includes space for two independent inspectors (Call and signature) so QSL cards are not required. Further info from: Keymens Club of Japan, PO Box 13, Kambara, Shizuoka.

### THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

**GOIRO.** In applying for membership, Bryan confesses that he has never kept up his cw skills and as a consequence is somewhat "rusty". For some time, Bournemouth sported a very good cw class on 2 mtrs run by a small group of locals but for the time being they have just run out of punters. Familiar story Bryan but I recall that when I ran out of takers, I ran a specialised training session with speeds aimed at those participating and this was combined with a very happy QRS session which caused much interest. **G4FMH.** Bills' Scout with the wick turned down to 4 watts continues to attract lots of QSOs. XYL had two knee replacements and is skipping around like a good 'un. **G0GGU.** Steve reports that they had a great year down at Bletchley Park which began by modifying an existing oversized base to mount a tower and rotator. There was an encouraging turn-out for VE day with GB3BPX operational in a large marquee for three days terminated by a march past of WW2 veterans. The Radio & Computer rally found him setting up a test for 5 applicants. That may be the last we will hear of Steve for a while since he says he only writes one letter a year and this was the one. Hi. **G0BUR** is another of our latest members and he anticipates a QSY shortly. The bungalow plot will permit him to run out 200' of wire but at what height I wonder. Looking forward to listening to the locals on 160m with an old Broadcast receiver and transmitting on that band also but concerned about the weight of that much wire swinging around in the breeze. **G3TVI.** As mentioned elsewhere, Rod queried my interpretation of the KCJA award. Seems he has a copy of the K1BV AWARDS DIRECTORY from which he culls another piece of JA wallpaper the "ALL KINKI" award which does not mean what you think it means. Hi. You have problems with that July 1995

mill Rod. Perhaps the best thing would be to hold it in both hands, elevate it to about 5 feet over an open dust bin and let go. Hi. **ZL2AOH.** Ralph has worked hundreds of JA stations (from ZL I guess that's not too difficult) but won't know his status as regards the KCJA award until he returns home. He has just received DXCC (CW) following his mixed award and whereas he still needs some 40 countries for DXCC (SSB) he needs only another 6 for DXCC(CW) 20m. Stuck there in the land of the Chrysanthemum he is suffering with withdrawal symptoms as he is not permitted to operate but takes solace from a SW receiver tuned to the lower end of the bands for cw. **G4OOS.** John includes an app form for his Century which he says was well worth the effort because he met so many friends. Only 9 o/s submissions but since he is QRP at 5 watts, this is a fine run. "Do we advertise ourselves enough"? So few members actually call CQ FISTS that the club is being deprived of a lot of the limelight to which it should be subjected. One respondent to CQ FISTS replied "Legs" but many more ask questions so it's well worth it. **G0TEQ.** Syd asks why all subs do not come in at the same time. Basically, I do not want people to feel they have been ripped off by joining in (say) Sept and receiving a demand for subs in January. I joined the RAOTA in mid year, included a donation over and above the figure requested and after getting a demand for subs in January called it a day in disgust. He includes a suggestion for a renewal form which I shall be applying. **G0JLB.** Paul welcomes my appearance on Packet. He was dragged kicking and screaming onto it by G0TUE some 18 months ago and says it is a marvellous system for getting all sorts of information in virtually any field you care to mention. (See my note re using and abusing Packet Paul). XYL in dock again after her diabetes went into a spiral. **\*GW0SGG.** Bill is to be found most evenings on 3560 to 3588 from 2000 encouraging the beginners. He is just one who is happy to offer assistance with the dial-a-sked system. Good on yer. **\*G3KUL.** Doug harks back to his wartime days running convoys and although a strict procedural system existed (particularly when working to Whitehall) deviations were common since you could not put a Merchant WO on jankers. Hi. His prime allocation to Convoy Commodore was due to his training with the newly discovered Radar (he quotes SCR253 if any of our members memories are jogged) and oh the flavour of those 18KHz VLF xmissions from Rugby Doug. Hi.

### FIELD DAY IS FIELD DAY

Nancy WZ8C reports on a Michigan FISTS Field Day which, judging by the number turning up with their wives and families, was declared a success. Not so successful however in terms of scoring because being FISTS, the ops spent more time rag-chewing and getting to know each other than point collecting. They are spread all over the State geographically so such a gathering was quite a bonus. They are already making plans for next years' FD and Dayton.

## FINALE

It would be unforgivable of me to close without saying thank you to the many members who extend their good wishes to Ivy. She is down to a crawl but thankfully is quite lucid except when agitated. Even then, I have learned to devine what it is she is trying to say through certain verbal cues. "Widgiemog" for instance means that the window cleaner is here so get out an pay him before he starts leaving bills. Something akin to making sense out of indifferent code on the bands I guess and I have become quite adept at this over the years. Hi.

What a lousy season we have been having. Noisy bands, poor HF condx and a summer which is reminiscent of a Siberian January. Despite all this, the members are making DX and a lot of it on QRP. Persistence pays. Hi.

73/88 people. Don't get sunburned and stay sober  
de Geo.

## ***NORTH AMERICAN MEMO***

**WZ8C - Nancy Kott**

**P.O. Box 47**

**Hadley, Michigan 48440-0047**

**WZ8C @ KF8JS.#NEMI.MI.USA.NA**  
(temporarily off of packet due to computer problems)

**Phone : 1-810-797-5388**

**Compuserve address: 73631,3654**

Hello North American FISTS! I don't know about you but I am tired of all this hot weather! To make things worse, a tree fell across the power lines at the QTH, causing a fire (no damage except to the tree) and plunging the whole road into darkness! The fire department came promptly when summoned, but said "Well lady, we can't put out the fire because the lines are hot and it will just keep re-igniting. Just keep an eye on it and if it gets bigger give us a call back" Like I am supposed to go to sleep with a fire 20 feet from the house? I don't think so! I was a nervous wreck. A few hours later, I could smell a different sort of odor in the air, went outside and the lines and the tree were glowing, turning into a big fireball. Sort of looked like the photos I have seen of atomic bombs exploding. There was a big BOOM then silence. The fire went out, the lines were dead. I had spots in front of my eyes, like a photo flash bulb for a long time, from looking at the fire! Here in rural Hadley, we have well water brought up with an electric pump, so we were without water, which I didn't like at all. The entire lower part of the State was without power (big storms!) so it took 3 days to get back on line. The storm took out the computer I have been using for packet, so if you haven't heard from me via packet I'm not ignoring you on purpose! Here is your memo for July :

## **Welcome to New FISTS**

Not a day goes by that I don't get a request for info or an application from a new FISTS member in my POBox! Thanks to all who have been spreading the word. I am impressed at the creativity you are showing with your QSL cards and enclosures promoting FISTS, that's wonderful! One correction: N2HCU was sponsored by George N2CG. Thanks George! In an attempt to save some typing, I will put the sponsoring FIST in parentheses rather than type out "sponsored by":

- 1747: Richie KC5NZR in New Mexico (WZ8C)
- 1748: Marty W2TMN in New Jersey (WB2FXK)
- 1749: Charlene KC5BUB in New Orleans (WB2FXK)
- 1750: John N9XNH in Indiana (WD8OCV)
- 1751: Bill KB6EI in California (WB2FXK)
- 1752: Don KB8KRD in West Virginia (AA1KF)
- 1753: Bob W1CW in Florida (NP2GP & VP2VI) Bob joined FISTS on the anniversary of taking his first Amateur Radio exam in 1938!
- 1754: George AD4EP in Virginia (WD8OCV)
- 1755: Ken KB7ZTU in Nevada (Dayton Hamvention)
- 1756: Jim N8NLE in Ohio (WD8OCV)
- 1757: Patrick AA0QI in Iowa (KG0KR) How about that callsign, Claude AA0IQ? hi!
- 1758: Chris-no call yet- in Massachusetts
- 1759: Ernie N2YQJ in New York (?)
- 1760: Marty KG8QT in MI (WZ8C)
- 1761: Marion (yl) AC5CM in Texas (KE3NV)
- 1762: Chas W8KUX in Maryland (AE4AZ)
- 1763: John KC6FWH in California (KE3NV)
- 1764: Jon KB1AVN in New Hampshire (WB2FXK)
- 1765: Tom Kat KB0SJB in Nevada (KG0KR)
- 1766: Clark KA8ZDL in West Virginia (WD8OCV)
- 1767: Phil (yl) KA4FZI in Florida (KD4OGV)
- 1768: Al KA7NDX in Arizona (WB2FXK)
- 1769: Ed KS4UV in Georgia (WB2FXK)
- 1770: Marino N1PVP in Massachusetts (WB2FXK)
- 1771: Doug ZP6CW in Paraguay, S.A. (KE3NV)
- 1772: Jess AI9L in Illinois (WC8OCV)
- 1773: Bernie KB8TCT in Ohio (CompuServe)
- 1774: Gary KS4JI in Tennessee (AA8HV)
- 1775: Jerry N9ZNF in Illinois (N3IJR)
- 1776: Hal K2JYK in Colorado (WB2FXK)
- 1777: Larry N9WCS in Indiana ()
- 1778: Ralph W7SK in Nevada (WB2FXK)
- 1779: Ted KF8WR in Michigan (KF8SY)
- 1780: Marty KB8QZ in Missouri (CompuServe)
- 1781: Max KA1IUI in Maine (WZ8C)
- 1782: Rod W9BRD in Illinois (VE3ZBB)
- 1783: George W6GRF in California (KB0JTS)
- 1784: Al KA7NDX in Arizona (WB2FXK)
- 1785: Patti AF9H in Illinois (AI9L)
- 1786: Eric KB3BFQ in Pennsylvania (WZ8C)
- 1787: Ken AD4OS in Indiana (CompuServe)
- 1788: Elliott KC4LHZ in Tennessee (WB2FXK)
- 1789: Rick KK5JV in Texas (N7CFA)
- 1790: Rich K8MEG in Michigan (KE3NV)
- 1791: Marshall AA0XI in Colorado (KN4OA)
- 1792: Gary KA2KDJ in New York (AE4AZ)

## Special Event Station

The Raritan Bay Radio Amateurs will operate a SE Station on August 5, 1995 at 2 pm EDT (1800Z) for 24 hours at the Sandy Hook Coast Guard Station in Sandy Hook, NJ. This coincides with the 205th anniversary of the US Coast Guard on August 4, 1790. They will be using George **N2CG**'s callsign. George will be working the CW position on August 6th and hopes to work many fellow FISTS. There will be a Special Event photo QSL card. I don't have the QSL info but it will be in QST and CQ. Sounds great George, have fun!

## Communications at Sea

This comes from Paul **N6HCS**:

The following conversation was purported to have occurred with signal lights in Morse Code one cold foggy night at sea:

#1: Please divert your course 15 degrees to left to avoid a collision.

#2: You divert your course 15 degrees to the right to avoid a collision.

#1: I am the captain of a US Navy Frigate. You divert your course.

#2: No. You divert your course.

#1: This is a large warship of the U.S. Navy. Divert your course now!

#2: This is a lighthouse. Your call.

## Correspondence Code Course?

Recv'd from Ken **WK8F**:

Your request for comments on a FISTS CW practice tape in the May issue of the Keynote prompts me to write this letter. I have been thinking for some time that one of the most important projects FISTS could undertake to preserve CW would be to administer a complete Morse code correspondence course.

Many who would like to become proficient in the use of the Morse code find it inconvenient, or even impossible to attend instructional classes, because of time-scheduling or distance problems. In addition, most available cod courses and tapes have not kept pace with the psychological research widely available on the subject of learning, and its opposite forgetting -- these are at the very heart of mastering Morse code.

The history of Morse code instruction, for the most part, has been dismal. In his book Morse Code- The Essential Language, L. Carron presents eight different techniques for learning the code: some techniques completely contradict others, and the techniques vary from exclusively aural to completely visual.

I believe much of the confusion about teaching methods results from the proven fact that all people will not benefit equally from the same practice techniques and methods of instruction.

It is no exaggeration to say that techniques of learning has been the most studied subject in the field of Psychology; yet, the application of new techniques has never made it's way into code instruction. This research

has cleared the way for a better understanding of the learning process, with the result that certain generalized principles may be applied to code practice. These principles show the most effective means of attaining skill for various types of learners, resulting in practice routines that are most conducive to learning and the acquisition of skill.

I wonder what the FISTS members think about such a Correspondence Course which would devote as much attention to straight-key sending as to the receiving aspects, making the learner a completely competent operator when s/he passes their exam. Would not such a FISTS Course increase the prestige of the organization as a preserver of the Morse Code? Is this not the main function of the The International Morse Preservation Society?

## QSL cards via FISTS Buro

John **N8FU** has a whole bunch of cards waiting to be claimed, he sent me a list a mile long that will take forever to type. So I am going to just say that if you have been on the air in the last 3 months, you probably have a card or 2 or 3 waiting for you at the Buro. Give John a break and let him mail your cards to you!! Send him 2 SASE's (one to send and one to have on file) NOW while you are thinking about it. If you don't want your cards for some reason, let him know so he can dispose of them or return to sender. Using our Buro can save you time and money, so take advantage of it. His address is on the masthead on the first page of the Keynote.

## Slow Speed Net Reminders

In addition to the Maine SSN and the FISTS SSN mentioned earlier in the Memo, don't forget to try the Wisconsin SSN daily on 3.645 at 6:30 pm Wisconsin time. I wasn't provided with the UTC, and don't want to try and translate it (I'm doing good if I can translate from my own time zone, hi)!

The IL SSN meets on 3.680 daily at 7pm WI time.

This info was from Mike **N9JY**.

Also the Indiana ICN Net meets daily at 6:15 local time on 3.705.

## Small World!

I was chatting with Mike, who has changed his callsign to **AA8RV** from **N8KXY** (congrats on the upgrade) and he told me that he met FISTS member Paul **G0FUF** on the air in 1990. It turned out they are both police officers and had a lot in common. In England **G0FUF**'s precinct had a rock 'n roll band that played "don't do drugs" etc. type music for local schools. Mike was able to arrange for them to come to the states and perform at local schools! Mike and his wife travelled to England and spent some time with Paul's family. Paul's wife is now in remission and they are planning on coming to the states for a visit. I hope they can make the trip during HamVention time!

## Fall Sprint — First Warning

If you missed the Spring Sprint and regret it, relax! You will soon get another opportunity to knock the Spring winners off their victory block. This is the first announcement for the FISTS Fall Sprint which will take an identical format to the Spring Sprint. It will be a four hour activity on the 2nd Saturday in October, 1700 - 2100Z. The objective will be the same: to exchange set information with as many other stations as possible. The first Sprint was a lot of fun and those who took part were unanimous in their feelings that it was worth continuing.

So, this is your first warning, mark your calendars, the FISTS Fall Sprint will be held from 1700 - 2100 UTC on Saturday October 14, 1995. Lets have a great turnout and make the bands ring with the sound of CW. For those of you who hate contests, try this one and meet some FISTS that you may not have met before. Support the club and bring FISTS to the notice of the rest of the ham world. Check next month's Keynote for details.

## and...FISTS Straight Key Week

This is a combined effort with the FISTS across the Pond and has the potential for being a lot of fun. It is the first whole week in September, so while you are marking your calendar for the Sprint, put SKW on there too! Geo sez the purpose of SKW is to recreate the leisurely QSO's and ragchews of yesteryear. You would be surprised to find out how much FISTS have in common with each other. We have quite a few with similar occupations, SOWP members, submarine vets, as well as FOC. There are awards for "Best Fist Heard aka Fist of the Year" (not necessary to work them) and "Most QSOs over 30 minutes aka RagChewer of the Year". Last year Don **KC4OCS** won Best Fist and Maggie **NP2GP** won RagChewer (no surprise there, hi). If you absolutely, negatively hate your straight key or a glass arm keeps you from using a straight key, please join in the fun anyway - just state during the QSO that you are not using a straight key. Those using other methods are welcome, you are just not eligible for Best Fist Heard award. Non-FISTS are also welcome to join in.

## and..WZ8C local club Special Event

The weekend after Labor Day, Sept 9 and 10, Lapeer County ham club will be operating SE station **WZ8C** from 7 Ponds Nature Center to celebrate Heritage Harvest Days. Local FISTS are more than welcome to come out for the event, and bring the family. There are old fashioned games for the kids, a "sheep to shawl" demonstration, lots of crafts, a Revolutionary War encampment (all authentic stuff, very interesting) and acres of old time tractors and thrashing machines. 7Ponds is just down Dryden road a few miles from the Field Day site.

## SILENT KEY

I regret to report the passing of another FISTS member. Tom **K2TD** died suddenly last April. He is remembered as **KZ5TD** "the Voice of the Canal Zone" Our condolences to his family.

## IOTA Expedition

**K8SCH/4** will be active from IOTA NA58. This will be from Tybee Island GA (Chatham County) activity will be on all bands CW/SSB from September 21 thru 24, 1995 They will try to work as many stations as possible. QSL to **N8FU** with SASE. QSLs from DX via Bureau are OK.

What is this IOTA thing? IOTA stands for Islands On The Air and was first started by SWL Geoff Watts (SK). Now it is administered by RSGB and Yaesu jointly. There are many IOTA awards available. One nice thing about IOTA is that it is open ended. That is - you will never be able to work them all as there are islands which have never been operated from! As soon as they are activated they are given a reference number. The US coordinator is **W4BAA** and has a very nice listing/info book available. Drop him an SASE if you are interested.

Many IOTA stations operate around 14.260 but are also on other frequencies. You may work IOTA on any frequency including WARC bands in any mode. IOTA frequencies (traditional frequencies where IOTA stations are looking for others) are CW: 28.040, 24.930, 21.040, 18.098, 10.115, 7.030, 3.530 SSB: 28.560, 28.460, 24.950, 21.260, 18.128, 14.260, 7.055, 3.765.

I think you will like IOTA. See you from NA58 CW or SSB.  
73 John **N8FU**

## Michigan Field Day

MI FISTS Field Day was marvelous! The weather was perfect (except for a torrential downpour at the very end, but we were already packed up and in our vehicles). We were running battery power with a G5RV up about 70 feet.

Ed **KF8SY** was the first to arrive, and we were soon joined by Irene **WO8E** and Dave **N6MLW**. Ed valiantly offered to climb up the light tower to string the antenna, but his legs refused to go any higher after he started the climb. He came back down, looked at the spot where he had attached the wire and was amazed, saying "is that all the higher I was?" He could have sworn he was up 60 feet! He's a lot braver than the rest of us, I wouldn't even try to go past 3 rungs, hi. After assessing the situation **N6MLW** realized he was going to have to go up the towers again this year. With the help of the climbing belt and encouraging cheers from **WO8E** (I had gone to the grocery store) he managed to get all the way up both towers and secure the antenna.

By the time I got back with the snacks and stuff from the grocery store, the screen tent was up and things

were taking shape. Murphy had also arrived in the meantime: **N6MLW** couldn't get his TenTec to operate in the send mode! After checking and rechecking everything, the problem was solved and we were in business. A few hours later than the suggested starting time, but what the heck! Randy **AA8TU** and his wife Renee came by, as well as Ted **KF8WR**, Fred **N8ABR**, his wife Pat and daughter Amanda (thanks for the loan of the trailer Fred!!), Chuck **N8WDH**, Brian **N8IAG**, **KF8SY**'s XYL **L1NDA** (hi), Joe **W8CYG** and his wife Pat, Ken **AA8NQ** and 6 nonFISTS visitors.

It was a real pleasure to meet the wives and family members, I'm glad they were able to come out and visit. And it reaffirmed the belief that most FISTS are ragchewers at heart not testers. We kept the radio going, but there was more activity outside the operating tent! Heck, we only get to see each other at Field Day, maybe Dayton, we have a lot of 'catching up' to do. And for most of us, it was the first time to have an Eyeball QSO, so we were busy getting acquainted! I hope **N8WDH** didn't get into too much trouble with the xyl, he had promised to be home by 8pm, and I noticed he was still there at 10! (don't get mad Chuck - he hates it when I write about him, hi)

We used battery power again, and it worked out FB. The city of Dryden even cooperated and put on a beautiful fireworks display for our enjoyment. Dryden Fun Days was happening less than a mile from our site, so we got a great view. The fireflies put on a spectacular show by themselves, I have never seen so many fireflies, hi!

**N6MLW** constantly amazed and amused us with his 'handy-dandy' gadgets, seems like he had a widget for every occasion, including a eating utensil combo and some really neat flashlights that fit one on each side of your head. You looked like a very scary robot while wearing the contraption, but it helped you find your way to the outhouse, hi! He and **AA8TU** kept it going all night, the rest of us were eventually driven off by mosquitoes. Everyone returned on Sunday, the newspaper photographer came out and **N6MLW** and **AA8TU** ended up being celebrities, getting their photo in the Lapeer County Press.

About one pm, it started clouding up, big time! Severe storms were predicted so we decided to call it a successful Field Day. With everyone pitching in, the clean up took no time at all, and we were all in our cars by the time the downpour started. Except for me and **AA8TU**, who volunteered to follow me back to **N8ABR**'s to return the trailer. We looked like drowned rats by the time the trailer was secured to my truck! We only made about 150 contacts, but we sure had a good time. Plans for next year are already in the works, Joe **W8CYG** wants to have a big barbecue and volunteered to bring the grill and do the chicken! It gets better every year, can't wait to see what happens at **MI FISTS FD 1996!** PS: If you lost your clipon sunglasses: they were left at the site, I have them, give me a call to claim them 810-797-5388. PS: I found my connector I thought had been lost!

## FISTS Slow Net

Hi gang! Well, the FISTS Slow Net has continued to be active this past month, even though I did miss a session (July 13) due to a bad thunderstorm while I was at the county fair with my kids trying to batten down the hatches on the goat shed - a real episode, 60 mph winds, heavy rain, lightning, a lady giving birth in front of the ferris wheel, my kids' 4H advisor having a suspected heart attack in the middle of it all! Sorry, I just did not make the FISTS Slow Net that night. We did manage to hold nine sessions from mid-June to mid-July.

In those nine sessions we passed fifteen pieces of traffic (QTC) addressed to points throughout the USA and into Canada. I was privileged to deliver a couple to people living close to me for regular FSN checkins, always a pleasure to do.

We had fifty QNIs (checkins), representing eighteen different calls. On one evening, the night of July 5 (OK, July 6 UTC), a total of ten stations checked into the net -- that's better than the section nets have been. We averaged five stations a session -- not bad for a beginners net made up of a lot of hams with little or no traffic experience.

A couple of points on the net need to be mentioned. The first is that the FISTS Slow Net is supposed to be a slow speed traffic training net, it is not meant to be a ragchewer's net. The overall objective of the net is to introduce FISTS to traffic handling procedures so that they can, hopefully, check into their section nets and take up the noble pursuit of CW traffic handling. However, I do understand that not everyone who QNIs the FSN wants to be a crash hot CW traffic handler, and that many just want to check in to say hello or to see what it's all about, and that is fine with me. Remember though, that traffic nets are business nets, with a lot of stuff to get through, and there isn't a lot of time to chat. Having said that, though, I do want to make it clear that we do chat a bit, and we certainly don't try to stick strictly to CW traffic handling protocol. If we did that, I'm sure that I'd be talking to myself each Tuesday and Thursday night. I do ask that stations checking in do their best to keep the exchange as brief as possible so as not to put the rest of the checkins to sleep. For example, there is no need to send the call of the NCS -- it is a waste of time. If the NCS calls you, there is no need for you to send your call (except, of course, once every ten minutes or when you're leaving the net). To save time, when the NCS calls you he will most likely just send the last two or three letters of your call (the suffix). To respond just send a signal of some kind (e.g., 'R', or 'HR', or 'C', or just a dah). Also, try to get to know the more commonly used QN signals. Yes, yes, I'm gonna send that list out to you just as soon as I can. That sheet will have other bits of traffic net protocol for you to learn too.

Being an ex-teacher, I believe that one learns by doing. That the best way to learn to handle traffic is to handle traffic. Expect to take some traffic after you

have been on the net a few times. I try to send one or two each session to different people. Often, I send a 'QNC', which is a message sent to everyone who has checked into the net. I try to use the correct message form, and if I have the time to get your address off the packetcluster database I will include that too. Often, though, I don't have the time to get that information on the screen (my C64 and Digicom aren't the fastest way to go packetwise). The messages I'll send you are pretty simple, and usually made up as I go along, but they should give you some idea of how to receive and send them. I will also encourage you to send a message to me or to someone else you know -- I put those into the NTS on the Late Buckeye Net, so if you want to hear your message go off into the ether just listen in on 3577 KHz at 2200 Eastern time and you should hear me check in and send it off to someone else. And, of course, when you do send a message I will try to guide you in the correct way to do it. Try it, it doesn't hurt, and you may find you actually like it.

When you QNI please hang around till the NCS excuses you from the net (sends QNX). If you have to leave, get the NCSs attention by breaking in with the suffix of your call, and just saying 'QNX' or something like that, and the NCS will know you have to go. I often have traffic to give someone, but find he has left before I've had the opportunity.

Finally, the net is intended to be a SLOW net and I try to keep it at that. If you want to send faster, that's fine, I'm good to about 25 - 30 WPM, but I'll still return to you at 10 - 12 WPM.

OK, that's about it for this month. I'd really enjoy seeing you on the net, and hope to find you there on a Tuesday or Thursday night soon. It's on 3682 KHz, beginning at 2100 Eastern time each Tuesday and Thursday evening (yeah, I know, Wednesday and Friday morning at 0100 UTC). Here are the statistics for the past month:

**QNI** (Checkins) -- 50; **QTC** (Messages sent/received) -- 15; **Sessions** -- 9 Calls and number of QNI: **N3MEE--6; N8NLE--4; N1PVP--3; WA2OVT--3; WB2FXK--3; W3HK--3; KD4OGV--3; N9JIY--3; WB9CIS--2; VA3KEW--2; N1HYF--1; AA1MU--1; N1QLF--1; K1UNQ--1; KB2QLK--1; K4AHM--1; KE4HZM--1; NV9F--1; WG9K/m--1.**

Take care, es hpe CU on CW sn -- 73 es ARF, Pete **K8OUA**

### Pondering Age

This is from **W08E**, she saw it in Dickie Bird News and thought the other FISTS would get a chuckle.

"When you're a little kid, you're so excited about getting older that you think in fractions. When children are asked how old they are, they respond, "I'm 6 and a half." Nobody every says, "I'm 53 and a half."

The greatest day of your life is when you become 21. But you *turn* 30, and it makes you sound like bad milk. Then you're *pushing* 40. It's all slipping away. Then you *reach* 50.

Next, you *make it* to 60. By then you've built up so much speed that you *hit* 70.

After that, it's day by day. You hit Wednesday. In your 80's, you hit lunch.

In the 90's you start going backwards: "I was just 92" Then, if you make it over 100, a strange thing happens. You become a kid again: I'm 104, and a half."

Enjoy, from Rene

### Learning the Code

*From Joe AA1KF, an "old buzzard" who doesn't own a microphone and frequently wakes up at 4am with cobwebs on his arm from being "alseep at the key"*

There is no shortcut to learning the code. Time and Practice are the only way. A suitable way of learning the code for one person may turn out to be an impossible way for another. You must experiment and find the best way for you. However, you will soon learn that attaining the desired speed requires constancy. Don't expect instant results, give it time to grow, like your garden.

The characteristic dit-dah sound of each character must be impressed on your brain until sound and letter become synonymous. Listen to code on a scheduled basis, following a day-after-day routine. Perseverance is your ally. Procrastination, your enemy!

On the Air Practice: (reality listening and actual QSO practice) There is no substitute, I repeat, there is NO SUBSTITUTE for actually getting on the air & having an enjoyable QSO. Listening & pulling weak stations out of interference and static is a skill to be learned.

I often check out the 80 meter Novice/ Tech+ CW subband, 3675 to 3724 khz. I work a large number of new amateurs there, but also find an equal amount of old timers there trying to work the rust out of their fists!

40 meters is a great CW band. It is possible to work someone day or night, but during the day is much easier for QSOs because after dark the foreign broadcast stations, with their high power and proximity to the amateur frequencies, present a real challenge to QSOs. But that's what you need! Practice "in the front lines". I always find someone to work at night on 40 meters CW. Hang out there. On 40 meters the Novice/Tech+ CW subband is 7100-7150khz.

Check into the Maine SSN on 3.685 daily, 6pm or 10pm (and the FISTS SSN Tues/Thurs on 3682 9pm) They offer great CW traffic handling experience. "LIVE" (not memorex) on the air CW QSO's are an EXCITING ways indeed to build up your code speed.

Come on, jump in, the waters fine!

### Congrats and Call Changes

Congrats to Chuck **N8RXW** on passing his Advanced  
Congrats to Brian **KJ7OX**, who passed his Extra only a week or so after passing his Advanced!

Congrats to Charles **N0XNF** on passing his Advanced and getting his new callsign **KG0RI**!

## Silent Key

It's always sad to have to tell you about a Silent Key but this one is particularly hard because it is a FIST who I considered to be a good friend. I received a letter from Vern **W7JAT** telling me Jeanie **W7JAW** had made her last QSO and passed away July 11. Jeanie was quite active on the air, joining the QSO parties frequently. She was one of our original FISTS members and I will fondly remember her, thinking about the encouraging letters of support she wrote when I was first trying to get the Memo off the ground.

I always got a kick out of the way she talked about Vern, it was obvious she adored him. I never got a letter from her that didn't include a little story singing Vern's praises as a husband or Morse operator (and she would add, 'of course, don't tell Vern I told you about that!'). It's a great loss to the ham community and our sympathy goes out to you, Vern.

## Kind CW & Other Considerateness

This comes to us from Pete **W2WSS** who wrote it for his ESS net newsletter. I had to cut some of it because of length, but I think the basic principle comes thru. Thanks Pete!

"At the outset let me disclaim any virtues in my own sending or other procedures; I guess this is a case of do as I say, not as I do -- an attitude hardly unique.

I suppose one could say there are three major elements in sending CW that determine the ease of copy: Character formation, speed and spacing. Character formation tends to be a given: if we use a keyer or even a keyboard we hope that our character formation is well-nigh perfect, and if use hand keys or bugs the formation is probably beyond redemption.

However, we certainly can do something about speed. First of all, remember the very human tendency of reluctance to show a supposed weakness. Unfortunately there are still operators who consider it a 'disgrace' to ask for QRS -- repeatedly if necessary. No one should feel that way, but the sender should not count on hearing a QRS to slow his normal speed. One indicator of the speed that is comfortable for the receiving station is the speed at which s/he initiates the contact. Generally you would not send faster than the receiving station's own sending speed. The receiving station can use the initial contact as an 'easy' way of indicating the speed he is comfortable with.

Operating conditions are another road sign to speed limits. If signals are weak, QRN heavy, slowing down without being asked is good practice. And if the receiving station asks for an unusual number of fills (and perhaps has difficulty getting the fill on the first try), sloooow down. If a portion of the message involves a difficult or unusual group, you may wish to slow down when you send that -- a long surname or phone number would fall into that category.

Good spacing is the redeemer of other CW sins. If your character formation leaves something to be desired, allowing adequate space between letters and groups will give the receiving station just that needed

time to puzzle out what you are sending. By the same token, running words together will make even slow sending unintelligible. Also avoid the eccentric word break--the one that makes two groups out of one word. Bad spacing is perhaps the easiest error in CW sending to avoid--a little concentration is all that is required. If in doubt, just allow a little extra space; better to err in that direction.

Repeating difficult or important groups is another thoughtful practice. The natural tendency to guess or assume often takes over so send an IMI and repeat the difficult or particularly important group. This is particularly important in traffic handling. Telephone numbers, call signs, surnames are all arbitrary groups that bear repeating. Incidentally, I have frequent difficulty with senders who run telephone numbers together. Properly sent, the usual telephone number including the area code, is three groups: the area code, the three digits in the exchange and the last four digits. Area codes are particularly important when sending messages and zip codes can also contain errors, it helps to have a town in the address also. 73 all Pete

## TSRAC

I know I've mentioned it before, but I'm compelled to mention TSRAC again! Ralph surprised me by using two whole pages to publish an entire FISTS application along with a copy of our membership certificate in the last issue of their very informative newsletter.

Ralph **K8AN** is terrific at wading through all that legal mumbo jumbo the FCC and ARRL insist in writing and cutting to the core of the issues. It is an absolute necessity that we as Preservers of Morse keep on top of things, but I know I get bogged down trying to read the fine print and legal-eze in QST. But reading Ralph's version of the petitions and meetings makes it make sense! It is worth subscribing to, just for that reason alone! But as a bonus, they have a magazine program where you can subscribe to your favorite magazines for rock bottom prices. I took advantage of this and saved more than the subscription price to the newsletter! For example you can get CQ for \$10.40, compared to \$24.50! 73 (altho I am not a Wayne Green supporter) is \$10.50/year! There are hundreds of magazines listed everything from teen mags, crafts, soap operas, electronics and sports! I'm returning the favor by printing an app to TSRAC in this newsletter! Thanks Ralph, we appreciate the publicity!

## Final

In my final, let me explain what is happening with the MemberList. The last one was so messed up, you may as well use it for kindling. Brian **N8IAG** resigned, and Ed **N7CFA** has kindly agreed to give it a go. The MemberList and Mailing List are 2 separate things. To make the mailing labels I have to use a program which can barcode.(DO I HAVE YOUR ZIP+4?) To further confuse things, Geo uses a DBase program over there. It may take us a while to get it straight. Thanks for your patience!

I love to get mail, so keep it coming! It just helps make YOUR Keynote better! Thanks and 73/88 Nancy

PS:

## CODE BUDDIES

The Code Buddy program is off the ground, and we have actually started to match hams who have CW skills that they are anxious to share and hams who are looking to improve their morse skills. There's a hitch, though, and that hitch has been yours truly. I seem to run out of time -- my XYL doesn't understand that amateur radio is my life, she thinks that I should also take an interest in her, my kids, our home, our bills, my job, the soccer team I'm supposed to be coaching, our menagerie of animals (a rat, a cat, a dog, and two goats), my 80 year old mother, her 80 year old mother, and the Cleveland Indians (bless 'em!!). So, to preserve and promote domestic tranquility in the Kozup household, I would like to try to run the program a bit differently from the way it has been run lately. Rather than try to match those needing help with those wanting to help, I'd prefer to simply publish the names, addresses and operating information for those who submit the information to me. Then, those of you who want to take part on either side of the coin, can decide which ham you want to contact.

I do now have the calls of those who have notified me over the past few months that they are interested in participating in the program. These include Paul (N6HCS) of Torrance, CA, Joe (N3LBC) of Lansford, PA, Maggie (NP2GP) of the US Virgin Islands (Maggie prefers to work with other YLs), and Paddy (W9LOH)

who is presently working with Alvin (KF8UE). You will notice that I haven't included their addresses. That's because I really haven't asked them if I could put their addresses, etc. into the Keynote, and I would rather do that first. I hope to have that information for you in next month's Keynote.

So, that's it! Lets keep the program going, in fact, lets expand it. If you are interested in helping someone improve his skills by regular on air CW contact, or, if you want to improve your own CW skills, send me your name, call, addresses (including email, packet, or whatever works), phone number, and operating interests (e.g., bands worked, times and days available, morse skills possessed, etc.) and I will be sure that it gets into the next Keynote. If you find someone on the list who you would like to contact, just do it! Hopefully, this will work better than the system as it is now.

So, to reiterate, if you would like to be listed as a Code Buddy drop me a line at any of my many addresses -- 5115 N. Park Ave., Warren, OH 44481 (Snail mail) k8oua@@kb8ast#neoh.oh.usa.na (packet); pkozup@@kentvm.kent.edu (internet email); 76022,2303 compuserve email); 216 847-0975 (Phone). I really do look forward to hearing from you for this activity, an activity which, in my honest opinion (IMHO), goes right to the heart of what FISTS is all about. Till we meet on CW, 73, Pete K8OUA.

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL IN TSRAC

Membership in TSRAC qualifies you for over 61 Services and Benefits

Send to: TSRAC - Box 240, RR 1 - Adena, Ohio 43901

Please Check One: **RENEWAL** \_\_\_\_\_ **NEW (Full Year)** \_\_\_\_\_

### RATES - TSRAC Earned Credit Dues System

➤	* <i>Without</i> earned credits - 12 Months		\$ 14.00
➤	* <i>Deduct</i> \$2.00 if a New Member	Minus	- _____
➤	* <i>Deduct</i> \$2.00 if a Participant In Wheeling Hamfest Early Bird Raffle	Minus	- _____
➤	* <i>Deduct</i> \$1.00 if Age 65 or over or 17 or younger	Minus	- _____
➤	* <i>Deduct</i> \$1.00 if Physically Handicapped	Minus	- _____
➤	* <i>Add</i> \$7.00 for First Class Delivery ( <i>OPTIONAL SERVICE if desired</i> )	Plus	+ _____
➤	* <i>Add</i> \$3.00 for Recommended new member as listed below ( <i>OPTIONAL</i> )	Plus	+ _____
➤	* <i>Add My <u>Optional Contribution</u> to TSRAC Repeater Fund</i>	Plus	+ _____

**TOTAL NET TSRAC YEARLY DUES OBLIGATION** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

➤ ☐ **VERY IMPORTANT - IF RENEWAL** what is your Membership Number? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ +4 \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of ARRL \_\_\_\_\_ When does your FCC License Expire? \_\_\_\_\_